Technique developed to fight HIV virus

4162. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the researchers at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston has developed a new technique to fight virus HIV as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 26th February, 1993;

(b) if so, whether Government have since contemplated any steps to get the know-how of the new technique in view of large number of HIV cases in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A group of scientists at the General Hospital Boston have developed an approach known as convergent combination therapy which aims at attacking the virus enzyme called reverse transcriptase. This enzyme is essential or its replication. This line of treatment is still in an experimental stage.

Dengue Epidemic

4163. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention nas been drawn to a press news-item captioned Dengue epidemic threatens 85 nations as reported in the Indian Express dated 23-2-93;

(b) if so, whether there is any threat from Dengue epidemic in India;

(c) whether Government propose to take any precautionary measures to control this disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although small outbreaks of this disease have been reported from isolated areas, there is no indication of an imminent threat to life or health posed by a Dengue Epidemic.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Burns wards in hospitals in Delhi

4164. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Burns Ward—a much neglected Department" as reported in the Indian Express dated 7th March, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the burns departments of the various Hospitals in the capital are ill-equipped;

(c) if so, the number of burns cases reported in the Hospitals in the capital during the last one year;

(d) the number out of them saved by the Hospital authorities; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to make well-equipped the burns wards in the various hospitals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The burns departments of the major Government hospitals are adequately equipped. The number of patients admitted and saved in Government hospitals during the last one year are as under:—

Name of the Hospital	No. of patients admitted	No. of patients saved
Dr. RML Hospital	611	318
Safdarjung Hospital	5532	5082
GTB Hospital	300	above 150
LNJP Hospital	1623	1209
D.D.U. Hospital	63	57
LHMC & Associated Hospitals	28	Nil.

(e) Steps to upgrade all the departments of the hospitals including the burns department are taken each year within the overall availability of resources.

Committee set up for Career improvement of the employees

4165. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee was set up to look into the career improvement of employees of certain autonomous/statutory bodies possessing professional qualifications in ISM and H|Yoga|Naturopathy so as to be comparable to the terms and conditions of services of similar employees of CGHS under ISM&H in July, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the question of disparities in the grades and Pay scales of the Junior Doctors of Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CGHS) and the Junior Doctors of other Central Government Helath Services was referred to this committee; and

(c) if so, the details and what is the decision of the committee thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Committee has suggested revision of pay scales at different levels keeping in view the pay scales of similar posts in CGHS.

Joint task force to control malaria

4166. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Joint task force in collaboration with the World Health Organisation for evolving some new strategies for the control of malaria; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of malaria patients detected during the last year and the reasons for its spread in different parts of the country; and what steps Government propose to take for controlling the malaria?